

F

279

592 59

City of Sumter,



==and==

Sumter County,
South Carolina, U. S. A.

THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR

Home Seeker,	Laborer,
Farmer,	Health Seeker,
Manufacturer,	Poultry Breeder,
Merchant,	Tourist,
Truck Grower,	Sportsmen,
Live-Stock Raiser,	Student,
Orchardist,	Attorney,
Dairy Men,	Physician,
Mechanic.	

Manufacturing, commercial, agricultural, horticultural, industrial, educational, Municipal and County Government, railroad, taxation, financial, climatic, population, lumber, and other information, issued by order of Sumter Chamber of Commerce, by

EMMITT I. REARDON,

Secretary & Treasurer, Room 2, City Hall.

F 279

59259

READ THIS CAREFULLY.

The City of Sumter and County are situated about the center of the State. The City is situated in a pine belt region, and is noted for the salubrity of its climate. It has maintained a high reputation as one of the most healthy sections of the South. The city is handsomely laid out with wide streets and well shaded avenues, handsome public buildings and private residences, the latter having well kept gardens, giving evidence of comfort and elegance. Located on eight Railroad lines, provided with good sanitary regulations and thorough system of water works and electric lighting, Sumter enjoys exceptional facilities as a summer and winter residence. The distance from Columbia is 42 miles, from Charleston 96 miles, from Wilmington 149 miles. The city is forging to the front steadily and rapidly, industrially and commercially. This is a prosperous section and signs of good times are clearly evident. Nearly all of the business buildings are new, and have just been or are being remodeled and the city is noted for its beautiful homes, and many beautiful cottages with all modern sanitary fixtures and conveniences are being built daily for rent at reasonable prices. The City Government of Sumter is in a fine condition financially, having a tax valuation of nearly \$2,000,000 and a bonded debt of only \$59,000. These are 20 years 4s and 6s. The city tax is 14 mills for all purposes. The business license rates are exceedingly low. While 14 mills taxes are levied, yet property is only returned for taxation at one-half its value. For illustration, note below that 165 buildings erected at a cost of \$375,120 still the increase in tax returns in one year was only \$175,000, including real

estate values, household goods and store fixtures and other personal property. If all property was returned at three-fourths of its value, it would be necessary to levy only 7 mills taxes. So after all, taxes are very low in Sumter, considering the up-to-date municipal government and the conveniences enjoyed by its citizens. The Sumter Water Co., asked \$110,000 for its plant one year ago, which cost about \$45,000 ten years ago, but this company only pays taxes to the county on \$19,000 worth of property. Other corporations are similarly undervalued for taxation and private property too. The people are justly proud of their schools. St. Joseph's Academy for young ladies, established in 1863, has a great reputation. It is a high-grade institution. There are two graded, one common and one high school under the supervision of a Superintendent, one who conducts them according to modern ideas and methods. The two handsome new brick school buildings cost \$35,000 and are heated and ventilated by a system as near perfect as is known to science. Sumter is noted for the purity of its water supply, capacity being 1,000,000 gallons per day, distributed from a stand-pipe which holds 400,000 gallons. The health of the city is carefully looked after, the death rate is exceedingly low particularly among the white people, and the city is noted for the small number of cases of infectious and contagious diseases. The city is also well drained, mostly with underground terra cotta pipes.

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, INDUSTRIAL, HORTICULTURAL AND OTHER FACTS ABOUT CITY AND COUNTY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Sumter City and County boast of many flowing artesian wells, with inexhaustible supplies of exceptionally pure water; as proven by chemical and sanitary analysis,

suitable for drinking, all domestic, manufacturing and also for irrigating purposes. There is an abundance of pure water all over the county at all times. This is a magnificent agricultural section, a splendid section for truck farming, fruit growing, and a splendid section for canning factories, and many as yet undeveloped resources. Out door farming and all other out door work can be carried on the entire year, and different crops cultivated, owing to our mild climatic conditions, winter and summer. The County of Sumter produces from 40,000 to 45,000 bales of cotton annually, most of which is sold on Sumter market. Thousands of acres of good pasture land, suitable for grazing and feeding horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats. Also a splendid section for raising poultry, with good local and nearby markets. It has been demonstrated by the successful operation of many wood working establishments, that Sumter county is a good place to invest in such enterprises. This is no experiment, and there is opportunity for much more capital. Manufacturing enterprises shipping products out of the city are exempt from city taxes, and license taxes for a period of five years, and given all encouragement possible.

Industrious immigrants are in demand as laborers or skilled workmen either on farms or in factories and other occupations and as home seekers in any occupation or profession. Wages run from \$15.00 per month and board for laborers and on up for mechanics and skilled laborers, experienced truck raisers, live-stock raisers, dairy men, etc.

Sumter is a good place for racing stables to winter stock. Tourists and health seekers find Sumter a good place to spend the winter or summer. All classes of people who are industrious, law-abiding, and enterprising, are welcome to Sumter county.

The City of Sumter also does a very large

business in dry goods, particularly fancy dress goods, and the making up of ladies' dresses, millinery goods, etc. There are seven dress making establishments. There are four millinery establishments, with skilled milliners. The leading dry goods and millinery and shoe establishments send representatives to the northern markets each spring and fall to purchase their stocks and to study the latest styles and fashions. Sumter draws a large patronage in the above lines, particularly in dress goods and millinery, from Florence, Marion, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Darlington, Marlboro, Williamsburg counties. In gents' and boys' clothing and furnishing goods, shoes, Sumter has a number of establishments handling these lines entirely. Sumter's wholesale grocery establishments ship many car loads to different points. Lots of manufactured articles, such as telephones, switchboards, telephone receivers, furniture, coffins and fine caskets and boxes, doors, sash, blinds, fly screens, desks, cabinets, cotton seed oil, cotton seed meal, hulls, cotton yarn, lumber, turpentine, rosin, turned wood work, columns, balusters, window and door frames, golf sticks, building material, brick, artificial stone, ice, soda water, coca cola, wagons, log carts, brass and iron foundry and machinery work, plumbing work, marble and stone work, job printing, are manufactured and shipped from Sumter. Diversified industries, honest treatment of customers and a hustling spirit make Sumter the distributing point for the above lines of goods for eight counties immediately adjacent to Sumter, and to other States also. Splendid telephone connections with the country and surrounding cities also, facilitates rapid business transactions, together with railroad schedules at all hours of the day and night.

The soil is peculiarly adapted to the production of cotton, corn, hay, oats, wheat,

barley, rye, tobacco, sweet and Irish potatoes and all varieties of fruits and vegetables, such as apples, pears, peaches, cherries, grapes, nuts, strawberries, "huckleberries," "blackberries," plums, watermelons, canteloupes, musk melon, citron, pecans, English walnuts, hickory nuts, and in the truck line, beets of all kinds, peas of all kinds, cabbage, collards, cauliflower, mutton corn, sugarcane, sorghum cane, cucumbers, egg-plants, lettuce mustard, onions, radish, spinnach, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, leeks, garlic, okra, parsnip, parsley, sage, thyme, pepper, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, turnips, asparagus, artichokes, carrots, sweet garden corn, kale, oyster plant, scullions, and also various farm pasturage grasses. Alfalfa, fodder, hay, peavine hay, etc. All the above fruits and vegetables and grasses grow in great quantities, at nearly all seasons of the year, and bring good prices at local and nearby markets.

Cultivated farm lands remote from railways, can be purchased at from \$5 to \$10 per acre. Lands convenient to railways or cities, or towns, \$15 to \$20 per acre. All lands rent from \$2 to \$3 per acre.

With plenty of pasturage grasses, rough food, and long seasons for grazing livestock.

Field crops. Amounts produced and cost of production per acre, of the following, depend entirely on the amount of fertilizers used, and the amount of cultivating: See following page:

Field Crops, Yield and Cost of Production.

Cotton.....	from 300 to 600 lbs. lint per acre,.....	cost of production from...\$12 00 to \$20 00	per acre
Corn....	from 10 to 40 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from...\$ 2 00 to \$ 8 00	per acre
Hay.....	from 1 to 3 tons per acre..	cost of production from..\$ 2 00 to \$ 3 00	per ton
Turnips.....	from 200 to 600 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from... 20 to 40	per bu
Oats.....	from 20 to 80 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per bu
Barley.....	from 10 to 40 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per bu
Rye.....	from 6 to 20 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per bu
Tobacco..	from 500 to 1000 lbs per acre.....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per lb
Sweet Potatoes	from 200 to 500 bushels per acre....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per bu
Sugar Cane	from 200 to 600 gallons.....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per gal
Sorghum Cane	from 200 to 600 gallons....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per gal
Irish Potatoes	from 300 to 600 bushels per acre....	cost of production from... 10 to 20	per bu
Peas.....	from 6 to 15 bushels per acre.....	cost of production from... 40 to 50	per bu
Fodder.....	from 200 to 500 lbs. per acre... ..	cost of production from... 25 to 40	per 100

Sumter is one of the largest cotton producing counties in the State. This is about the best local cotton market in the State. Sumter having a compress, better prices prevail here than in some markets.

Sumter also excels in the matter of fine timber in great quantities. cypress, oak, walnut, poplar, dogwood, hickory, maple, yellow and Cuban pine and black gum grow here.

There is room for spoke and handle furniture, box, barrel, bucket, wagon, buggy, cart and other wood working factories, and cotton yarn, duck drilling, saddlery, harness, towel, napkin, brick and tile, hosiery, wood fiber, plaster and other factories.

The county has an able Supervisor and Board of County Commissioners, men of practical ideas, patriotic and energetic. All laws are rigidly enforced.

The people are religious and church going. The whites are in the majority. The county of Sumter is peopled by sturdy, honorable, hardworking farmers of modern ideas, noted for hospitality and patriotism. There are ten churches in the city for white people, Methodist 2, Episcopal 1, Baptist 2, Presbyterian 1, Lutheran 1, Roman Catholic 2, Hebrew Synagogue 1, Christ Church 1, and five churches for colored people. Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian. Sumter is rapidly becoming a manufacturing center. Two large furniture and coffin factories employ hundreds of men, one of which started on a capital of \$65.00 five years ago; the plant cannot now be bought for \$50,000. The Sumter Telephone Company which manufactures telephones, switchboards and other telephone and electric appliances, is the only telephone factory in the South whose products find markets throughout the world. Hundreds of men and women are employed and the factory is one of the largest in the United States.

The Sumter Fire Department consists of

two two-horse teams, manned by the finest set of young volunteer fire fighters to be found in the country, and the hook and ladder company, manned by faithful colored firemen. Electric fire alarm system. Insurance rates are therefore not high.

Sumter city and county have an industrious, well behaved and orderly colored population, many of whom own their own homes. Race troubles are unknown.

SOME BUSINESS FACTS.

Population of city of Sumter, 1890,

U. S. Census..... 3 800

Population of city of Sumter, 1900,

U. S. Census..... 5 675

Increase in ten years 1 875

Population 1903, Official City Census, 7 281

Suburban, practically part of city..... 767

Total city and suburban population.. 8 048

Actual increase in pop. since 1900 ... 1 606

The increase in a little over 4 years since 1900 was nearly as much as ten years previous.

Population in 1905 estimated at.... 10 000

Total area of city, square miles $3\frac{1}{2}$. Number of inhabited houses in the city 1,869. Length of water pipes, 11 miles. Capacity of water supply 1,000,000 gallons daily. Amount invested in manufacturing and industrial enterprises \$775,000. Banking capital four banks \$275,000. Population employed in factories 1,200. Number of miles of streets 42, 6 miles of macadam, balance clay and sand roads.

RAILROADS.

Sumter is the largest Railroad center in the State. Three different systems of railroads, viz: Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., The Northwestern Railroad Co., and the Southern Railway, with eight separate lines running into Sumter from all points of the compass, controlled by Railway Companies as follows: Manchester and Augusta Railroad

Co., The Central Railroad Co., of South Carolina, the Sumter & Wateree Co., the Wilmington Columbia & Augusta Railroad Co., the Sumter & Camden Railroad Co., the Wil-on & Summerton Railroad Co., the old C. S. & N., now M. & A. Extension. There are 53 trains daily, 31 carrying passengers, 25 carrying U. S. mails and passengers exclusively. Total receipts at freight depots at Sumter for incoming and outgoing freight last twelve months average \$500,000 and including freight charges on carload lots shipped to Sumter, freight prepaid and carloads of cotton, lumber and other material shipped from Sumter and freight paid at points of destination amounting to \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually, the total freight business averages nearly \$700,000 annually. Two years ago the total receipts from all sources averaged \$500,000—an increase of \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually. Total passenger business last twelve months \$200,000, an increase of about \$50,000 annually over two years ago.

Cotton purchased on Sumter market averages 50,000 to 55,000 bales annually—owing to increased wholesale business and the fact that the total volume of business of all kinds in Sumter increased about 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. last year over the year before, indications are that the freight receipts will be much larger the next twelve months.

Local pay rolls of Sumter of the railroads annually, \$71,360. Number of miles of side tracks in city of Sumter, 17. Number of railroad employees in city of Sumter, 147. Sumter county has more systems of Railroads and more miles of railroad tracks than any county in the State, not excepting Richland county, in which the Capitol of the State is situated. The city of Sumter has the greatest number of Railroad lines, with the best morning and afternoon schedules for drawing trade of any city in the State,

and among the best in the South. Her business is rapidly increasing in all lines of trade.

The growth of the city is steady and safe, owing principally to splendid railroad advantages, fine agricultural back ground, increased manufacturing industries and opportunities for safe and profitable investments and pleasant homes.

Two commodious freight depots, with numerous warehouses platforms and sheds for cotton, fertilizers, naval stores, agricultural implements and other freight. Two handsome passenger depots costing \$25 000; two local switch engines with four crews, are required night and day to handle the freight traffic. Five car inspectors are constantly employed. Three road masters are located here with five section masters.

SOME OTHER INTERESTING FACTS.

Total value of real estate and personal property returned for taxes in the city of Sumter in 1904, \$1,850,000. Actual value of all personal property and real estate of all kinds, taxable and non-taxable, in the city of Sumter estimated \$3,000,000. Total city taxes collected in 1904, \$24,794.89. This does not include license tax and commutation taxes, amounting to \$4,500 annually, and dispensary profits. Increase in tax returns in city in 1904, \$175,000. Number of residences, stores, tenement houses, office buildings, manufacturing enterprises, schools, depots, warehouses, hotels, lumber plants, churches and other buildings erected in the past 18 months are 163, which cost \$375,120. The Western Union Telegraph Company, Postal Telegraph Company and the Southern Express Company have 10 men employed here. They do a very large business. The real estate and personal property owned by the city of Sumter, valued at \$125,000.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Its Municipal Officials are: Mayor, eight

Aldermen, City Clerk and Treasurer, Supervisor of Registration, Recorder, Superintendent of Public Works, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, Chief of Police, First and Second Sergeant of Police, 7 regular Policemen and several substitute officers, Chief and Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, Secretary to Health Board, Secretary to City Board of Education, Health Officer, Sanitary Inspector, City Physician, Superintendent of Education, Assistant Superintendent of Education, five members of the City Board of Education, five members of the Health Board, President of the Health Board, City Engineer, Corporation Counsel. 35 teachers are employed in the City Graded Schools. Total school enrollment for 1904, 1,400, an increase of 13 per cent. The County Court House and County offices and officers are located in Sumter.

BANKING AND OTHER BUSINESS.

The total amount of business in all branches of trade, manufacturing and industrial lines is estimated by experts to be not less than \$6,000,000 annually, exclusive of banking business. The total volume of business as done by three local banks in 1904, according to statements of cashiers of the First National Bank, Bank of Sumter and the Sumter Savings Bank, \$50,630,382.06. Another Bank has just opened for business.

LUMBER BUSINESS.

Sumter is an unusually large lumber market with a dozen lumber plants located in and near the city, employing several thousand hands. Nearly all lumber shipments are made from the Sumter depot.

MISCELLANEOUS ENTERPRISES.

There are two hospitals for the care of the sick, managed by surgeons of ability and reputation. Trained lady nurses are in attendance. They are Mood & Osteen's, and the Baker Infirmary. A training school for

nurses is established at both hospitals. "The Sumter Hospital Company" (Inc) with a \$20,000 capital stock—Drs. S. C. Baker, Walter Cheyne, Archie China and H. M. Stuckey, incorporators, will absorb Dr. Baker's Hospital within thirty days, and go into their magnificent three-story stone hospital. This up-to-date hospital will be fitted out with all modern hospital equipments, with a corps of trained lady nurses, and a staff of physicians and surgeons of ability. Mr. D. G. Ziegler is the supervising architect of the new hospital. The Mood-Osteen Hospital is thoroughly equipped.

We have also 1 telephone factory, 2 large cotton ginneries, 2 coffin and furniture factories, 1 large cotton oil and fertilizer factory, 2 large bottling works, one golf stick factory, fine water works system, three ice plants, one electric light and power plant, five lumber, door, sash and blind factories, and general wood working establishments, 2 daily and 4 weekly papers, one monthly paper, 4 banks, 8 railroad companies, 2 B. & L. Associations, colleges and graded schools, 2 new modern hotels and many excellent boarding houses, one military company, brass band and orchestra, \$40,000 opera house and city hall, long distance and local telephone exchanges, 3 gunsmiths, 2 brass and iron foundries, 3 machine shops, 5 blacksmith and wheelwright shops, 5 bicycle repair shops, 5 plumbing and steam-fitting establishments, 3 furniture and cabinet repair shops, 2 marble and stone yards. There are skilled Physicians, 9 dentists, 1 Circuit Judge, 1 Magistrate, 21 attorneys, 3 railroad surgeons, 4 members of the legislature, 35 County officials and their Clerks and assistants who have offices in Sumter, 13 lodges of secret societies. City Council has granted franchises for a city and suburban electric railway and light and power plant. Sumter is a wholesale as well as re-

tail market, having 4 exclusive wholesale and jobbing houses, with representatives on the road, 7 or 8 wholesale and retail establishments and about 85 retail establishments of all kinds, besides other places of business. Free City Mail Delivery, Rural Mail delivery, 1 cotton mill, Music Schools, Private Schools, Good Hunting, Good Fishing, Splendid City and Country Driveways. Contractors, Architects, Skilled Labor, Brick Yard, Corn Meal, Grist and Wheat Mills.

20 handsome brick stores and 2 brick stores are in course of erection, a number have been built within the last 12 months, besides a number of small wooden stores, not previously mentioned. Sumter is also a very large live stock market, there being 6 stables handling thousands of horses and mules annually, besides many thousands of dollars of farming machinery, other agricultural implements, harness, hay, grains, buggies, wagons, etc. Sumter is a large distributing point for a large portion of South Carolina. Many rural and star routes for mail begin here. Sumter has long been an educational centre, drawing patronage from this and other States, having excellent facilities for educating boys and girls, and our fine climatic and sanitary conditions, and pure water, together with our fine social and religious advantages being extra inducements.

POSTAL RECEIPTS.

1893.....	\$ 6 979 79
1903.....	12 077 06
1905 will be about.....	14 000 00

NEW ENTERPRISES.

New enterprises chartered and some in operation within the past 60 days. One bank, one city and suburban electric railway and power plant, one electric power plant flour mill, steam laundry, one bonded cotton warehouse, Virginia Carolina Chemical Com-

pany factory; one railroad, Sumter & Northern, S. A. L. connections, chartered and organized; two machinery and foundry works, one grist and corn meal mill, one railway and mill supply company, one building and supply company, one office building, one artificial stone works now in operation.

E. I. REARDON,

Sec & Treas., Sumter Chamber Com.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 496 519 A

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 496 519 A ●